



*Always Ready
Always There*

The Gem State Guardian

The official newsletter of the
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Joint medical exercise builds skills for incident response

PHOTO AND STORY BY TECH. SGT. SARAH
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BOISE, Idaho – A light drizzle of rain and dark clouds provide atypically cool conditions for a mid-summer morning at the Simplot Sports Complex in east Boise. Normally you'd find soccer players warming up and practicing in the grassy complex but this day, there was something very different going on July 10, 2016.

Two helicopters, a UH-60 Black Hawk and a UH-72 Lakota sit off in the distance, several tents and roped off areas designate an incident command post, a triage station, a treatment area and a decontamination facility. A black dog with a reflective vest that



Lt. Col. Carrie Teague, a Nurse Case Manager for the IDARNG has suffered a simulated amputation and is going through chemical decontamination provided by the IDARNG CST team before being transported for medical evacuation.

reads "search dog" weaves in and out of tall cat tails looking for injured people. The dog's handler, a female civilian responder in a red rain coat, follows a few steps behind.

Debris like lockers, utility boxes, cables and trash are strung about in the manicured grass. Moans and cries for help come from all directions. Their injuries ranging from concussions to burns, impairments, lost limbs, and

Staff Sgt. Blake Pannell, IDARNG Dental Technician and LTC Shane Vania, IDARNG and local Dentist, direct a simulated injured employee of a collapsed building to delayed treatment so more seriously injured casualties can transport first.

evisceration. Army medics and firefighters make quick assessments of injuries and aid them systematically.

While the injuries are simulated with moulage, theatrical makeup and prosthetics used to make fake injuries look disturbingly realistic, the medical expertise and urgency of the responders is the real deal.

This is a joint exercise with around 200 participants from the Army National Guard's C Co. 145th, Fire Department, Medical Detachment, the Air National



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Guard's 124th Medical Group, 101st Civil Support Team, Boise Police and Fire Departments and civilian search and rescue personnel from Mountain Rescue.

The exercise scenario was a collapsed building that resulted from an earthquake. Training like this helps military and civilian medical responders work together, learn about each other's capabilities, and to prepare for a variety of possible incidents including floods, fires, terrorist attacks, active shooters and more.

"We're trying to get out in the community to work with our community partners," said Maj. Dujuana Forbes, incident commander. "When we train together we get to learn about those partners and get an



The Idaho Army Guard's Dental team triage simulated injured casualties prior to going through decontamination from suspected chemicals stored in collapsed building.

overview of what is available in the state."

If surrounding states experienced a large scale emergency, and their medical assets and personnel

were compromised, it is likely that neighboring states would likely be the ones providing the medical response on location, providing patient transport and caring for disaster victims.

"We want to make sure we can respond no matter where the incident happens. We have medical first responders trained and ready to go," said Forbes.



Idaho Army National Guard fire fighters and Sgt. Ashley Hamilton, evaluate a simulated abdominal evisceration of IDARNG Dental Technician, Sgt. Teri Stadther.

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